

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OES-07 /099 W

-----055127 311422Z /50

R 310645Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4340

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MX, BU, EFIS

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-MEXICAN RELATIONS

1. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT A VISIT BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO BULGARIA IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT MAY 21, FOLLOWING A VISIT BY HIM TO MOSCOW AND PERHAPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SOME OTHER STOPS IN EASTERN EUROPE. MEXICAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS IN SOFIA RECENTLY, ACCORDING TO MEXICAN AMBASSADOR NEGOTIATING MAINLY ON COMMERCIAL MATTERS OF NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. IN ADDITION, LYUDMILA ZHIVKOVA, CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, WAS RECENTLY IN MEXICO FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST 14 MONTHS. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDING AT THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION OF BULGARIAN ICONS, SHE WAS PRESENT FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION IN MEXICO OF THE CENTENNIARY OF MODERN BULGARIAN INDEPENDENCE.

2. DESPITE THIS CURRENT FLURRY OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, MEXICAN AMBASSADOR STATES THAT THERE IS LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO BULGARIAN-MEXICAN RELATIONS. THE ONE NEW ITEM OF INTEREST WHICH AROSE DURING THE VISIT OF THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS A BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR A MEXICAN FISHING AGREEMENT. THE MEXICANS DEFERRED ANY RESPONSE.

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3. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN QUITE UNHAPPY WITH HIS ASSIGNMENT TO SOFIA (HE ARRIVED HERE IN NOVEMBER 1976), HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT IN 30 YEARS OF SERVICE OUTSIDE THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE (HE HAS SERVED THREE TIMES IN MEXICAN CONSULATES IN THE UNITED STATES). IN ADDITION, HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER HAVE REMAINED IN GUATEMALA, HIS LAST PRE-

VIOUS POST, PENDING THE DAUGHTER'S COMPLETION OF HER
EDUCATION. HE IS RELATIVELY INACTIVE IN THE LOCAL DIPLO-
MATIC CORPS. ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS WITH SOME PLEASURE THAT
HE INFORMED ME THAT FOLLOWING HIS PRESIDENT'S VISIT HERE
HE WOULD PROBABLY BE TRANSFERRED BACK HOME.
GARTHOFF

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NNN

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